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[54] **METHOD FOR ADJUSTING
REPRODUCTION SPEED OF CD-ROM
DRIVE AND DEVICE SUITABLE THEREFOR**

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[52] U.S. Cl. **369/50; 369/54**

[58] **Field of Search** 369/50, 47, 54,
369/58, 48

[56] **References Cited**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A device and method for adjusting the reproduction speed of a CD-ROM drive according to variations of a supply voltage. The supply voltage is compared with a predetermined reference voltage. If the supply voltage is lower than the reference voltage, the rotating speed of the spindle motor is lowered to a corresponding speed. Therefore, the error correcting capability of the DSP is maintained and the reliability of a product increases.

9 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

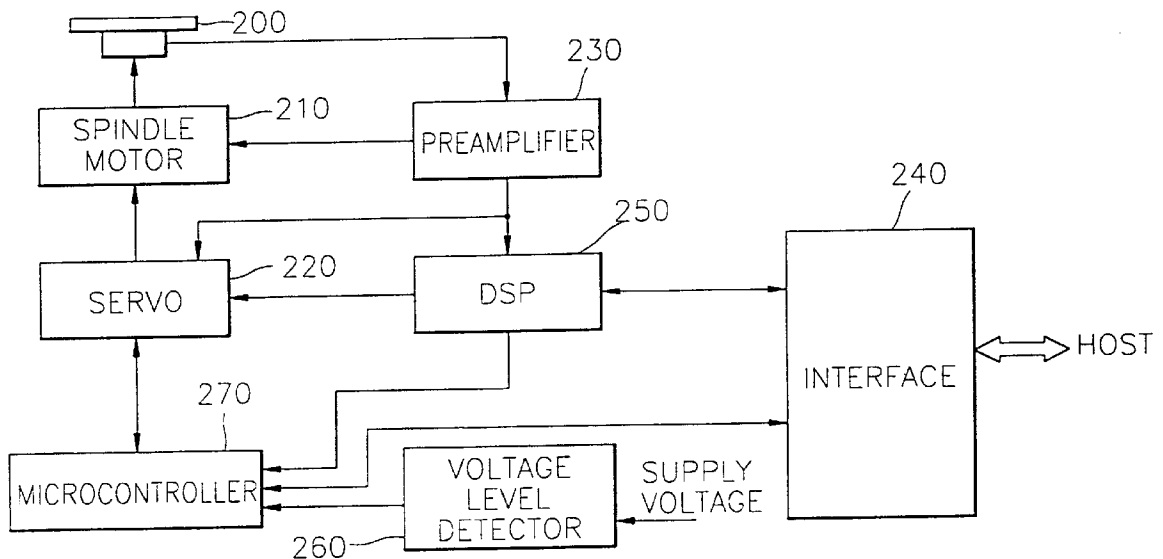
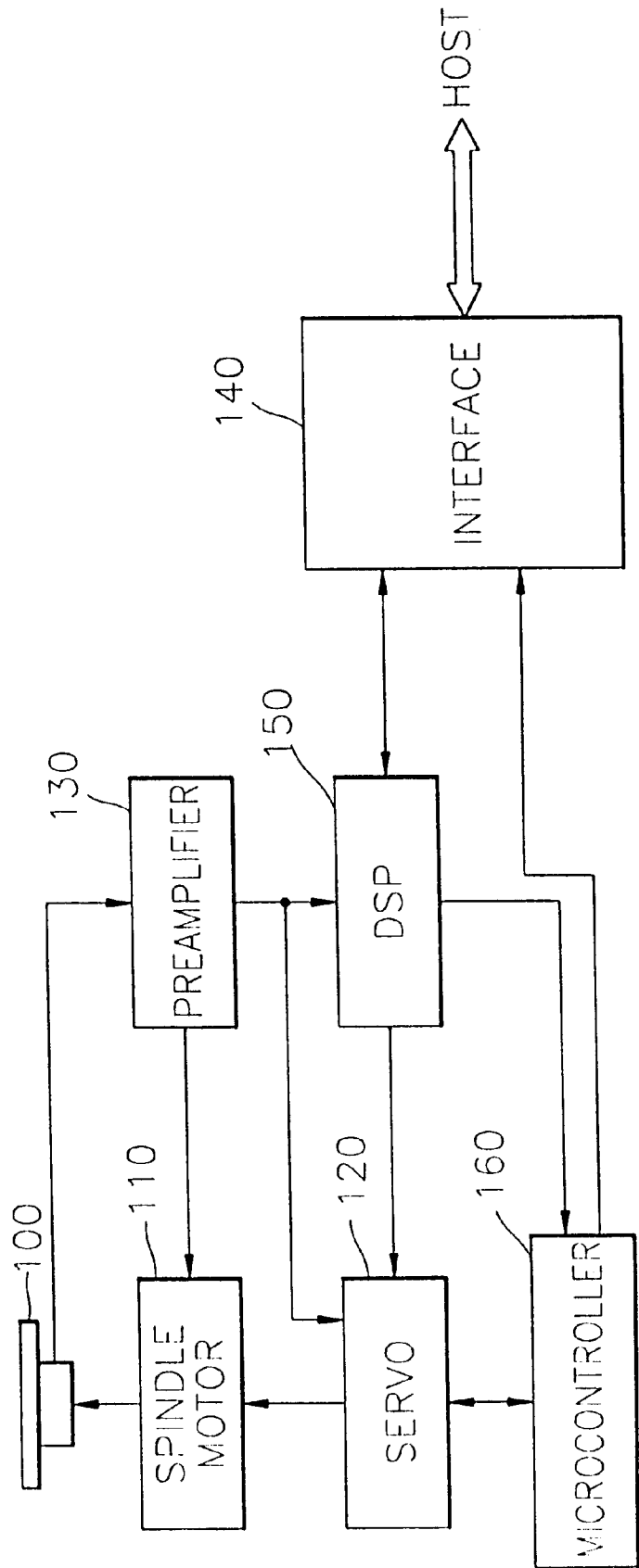


FIG. 1 (PRIOR ART)



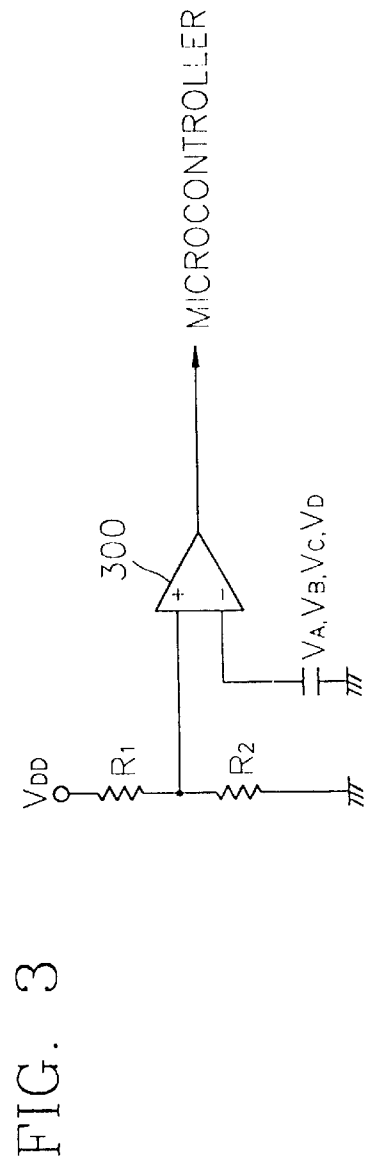
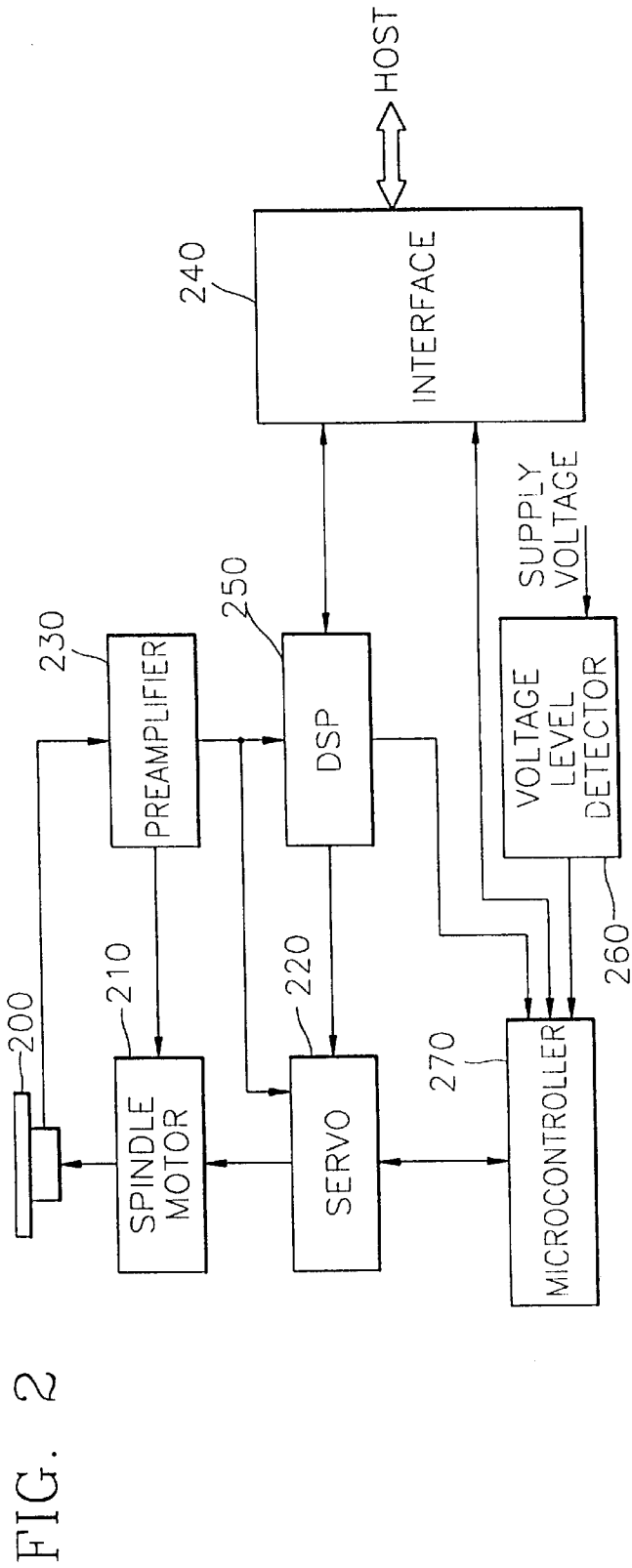
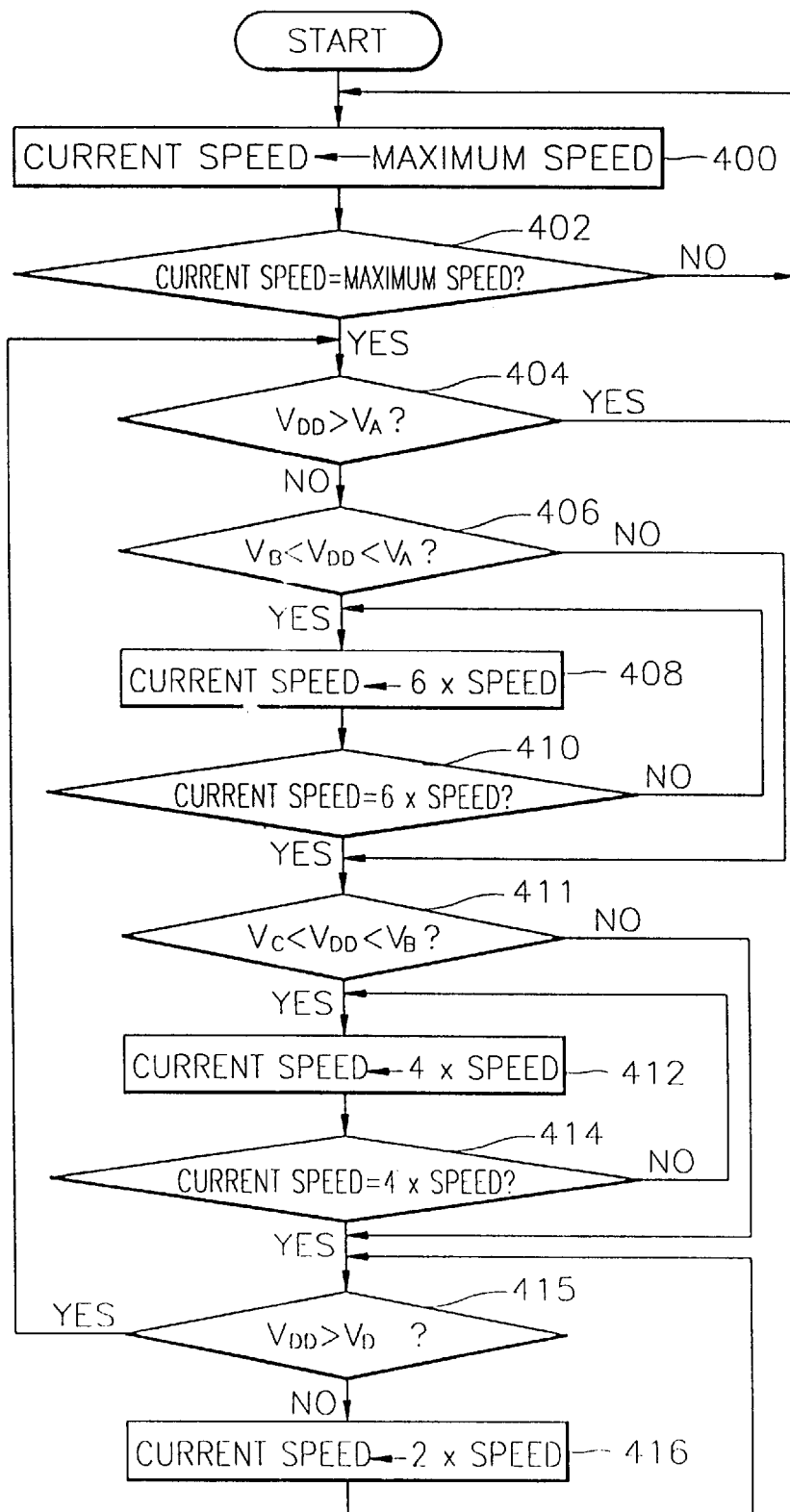


FIG. 4



METHOD FOR ADJUSTING REPRODUCTION SPEED OF CD-ROM DRIVE AND DEVICE SUITABLE THEREFOR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a CD-ROM drive, and more particularly, to a method for adjusting the reproduction speed of a CD-ROM drive according to variations of a supply voltage, and a device suitable for the method.

2. Description of the Related Arts

In a CD-ROM drive in a computer system, data cannot be read out properly if a supply voltage supplied varies significantly, especially when the supply voltage drops below a reference voltage, for example, in a notebook computer which uses only a battery. Thus, a system error may occur, which should be prevented by adjusting the speed of the CD-ROM drive.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a conventional CD-ROM drive.

In FIG. 1, a servo **120** controls the speed of a spindle motor **110**. The spindle motor **110** rotates the turntable **100** on which a CD-ROM is placed. A preamplifier **130** amplifies signal read out from the disk by use of an optical pickup (not shown) to a predetermined level. An interface **140** transmits and receives data to and from a host computer (not shown). A digital signal processor (DSP) **150** controls the servo **120**, analog-to-digital converts the amplified signal output by the preamplifier **130**, and demodulates and error-correction-decodes such data. When the servo **120** is locked, the DSP **150** outputs the error-corrected data to the interface **140**. A microcontroller **160** determines whether the servo **120** is normally controlled by the DSP **150** so that the servo **120** is normally operated.

Here, if the servo **120** is not normally operated, the microcontroller **150** retries several times such that the servo **120** is normally controlled. If the servo **120** is not normally operated despite the retries, the microcontroller **160** stops the CD-ROM drive and sends an error signal to the host computer via the interface **140**.

In the conventional CD-ROM drive, in case that a supply voltage drops, the error correcting capability of the DSP is reduced, and the torque of the spindle motor is lowered so that an intended rotating speed cannot be achieved. As a result, the DSP **130** cannot normally correct an error in the data and the servo **120** cannot be unlocked. Therefore, the system cannot operate properly. Such a problem becomes serious especially when a system is driven with only a battery without another power source, e.g., in a multimedia notebook computer.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide a method for adjusting the speed of a CD-ROM drive according to variations of a supply voltage so that the error correcting capability of a digital signal processor is maintained by adjusting the speed of a spindle motor when a voltage supplied to the CD-ROM drive is dropped.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a device suitable for the above method.

To achieve one of the objects above, there is provided a method for adjusting the reproduction speed of a CD-ROM drive according to variations of a supply voltage, the method comprising the steps of: (a) comparing the supply voltage with a predetermined reference voltage; and (b) lowering the

rotating speed of the spindle motor to a corresponding speed when the supply voltage is lower than the reference voltage in the step (a).

To achieve another one of the objects above, there is provided a device for adjusting the reproduction speed of a CD-ROM drive according to variations of a supply voltage, comprising: a spindle motor for rotating a turntable on which a CD-ROM is placed; a servo for controlling the speed of the spindle motor; a digital signal processor for controlling the servo, correcting a predetermined error in data extracted from the CD-ROM, and outputting the corrected data if the servo is locked; comparing means for comparing a voltage supplied from system with a predetermined reference voltage; and a microcontroller for determining whether the digital signal processor normally controls the servo and the servo is normally operated, and outputting a signal for adjusting the rotating speed of the spindle motor to a corresponding speed on the basis of the output value of the voltage level comparing means.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above objects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent by describing in detail preferred embodiments thereof with reference to the attached drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a conventional CD-ROM drive;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a CD-ROM drive according to the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a circuit diagram of one of voltage detection circuits within the FIG. 2 voltage level detector; and

FIG. 4 is a flowchart illustrating an embodiment of a method for adjusting the speed of a CD-ROM drive according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In FIG. 2, a servo **220** controls the speed of a spindle motor **210**. The spindle motor **210** rotates the turntable **200** on which a CD-ROM is placed. A preamplifier **230** amplifies signal read out from the disk by use of an optical pickup (not shown) to a predetermined level. An interface **240** transmits and receives data to and from a host computer (not shown).

A digital signal processor (DSP) **250** controls the servo **220**, analog-to-digital converts the amplified signal output by the preamplifier **230**, and demodulates and error-correction-decodes such data. When the servo **220** is locked, the DSP **250** outputs the error-corrected data to the interface **240**.

A voltage level comparator **260** compares a supply voltage with predetermined reference voltages, and outputs a compared result to a microcontroller **270**.

The microcontroller **270** determines whether the servo **220** is normally controlled by the DSP **250** so that the servo **220** is normally operated. Also, the microcontroller **270** generates a control signal on the basis of the compared result signal from the voltage level comparator **260** to output such signal to the servo **220**.

FIG. 3 is a circuit diagram of one of voltage detection circuits within the FIG. 2 voltage level detector.

In FIG. 3, a comparator **300** compares an input voltage, which is the supply voltage V_{DD} divided by resistors R_1 and R_2 , with a predetermined voltage V_A , V_B , V_C or V_D to output the compared result to the microcontroller.

When a system voltage supplied to the CD-ROM drive drops, the voltage level comparator 260 compares the voltage supplied to the CD-ROM with a plurality of reference voltages and outputs the result. The microcontroller 270 receives the result and lowers the rotating speed of the spindle motor, thereby keeping the error correcting capability of the DSP 230. Then, the microcontroller 270 returns the rotating speed of the spindle motor to its original speed when the voltage is recovered.

FIG. 4 is a flowchart illustrating an embodiment of a method for adjusting the speed of a CD-ROM drive according to variations of supply voltage according to the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 4, an error correcting ability is maintained by comparing the supply voltage V_{DD} with predetermined reference voltages V_A , V_B , V_C , V_D , . . . sequentially and adjusting the speed of a spindle motor correspondingly. For example, in the present embodiment, it is assumed that the voltage supplied to the system is 5V, the predetermined reference voltages are 4.5, 4, 3, and 2, and maximum rotating speed of the spindle motor is 8x. Then, the rotating speed of the spindle motor is lowered to 6x, 4x, and 2x speed by comparing the supply voltage with the respective reference voltages sequentially.

First, the initial speed of the spindle motor is set to the maximum speed, i.e. 8xspeed, in step 400. Here, the maximum speed is assumed to be.

In step 402, it is determined whether a current speed reaches the maximum speed. If the current speed is equal to the maximum speed, the supply voltage V_{DD} is compared with a first reference voltage V_A in step 404. If V_{DD} is greater than V_A in step 404, the spindle motor is operated at the maximum speed which was set in the step 400.

However, if the supply voltage V_{DD} is less than the first reference voltage V_A in the step 404, it is determined whether the supply voltage V_{DD} is between the first and second reference voltages V_A and V_B in step 406.

If the supply voltage V_{DD} is greater than V_B but less than V_A , the current speed is lowered to 6xspeed in step 408. In step 410, it is confirmed that the current speed of the spindle motor is 6xspeed.

Meanwhile, in the case it is determined that the supply voltage V_{DD} is less than the second reference voltage V_B in the step 406, it is determined whether the supply voltage V_{DD} is between the second and third reference voltages V_B and V_C in step 411.

If the supply voltage V_{DD} is greater than V_C but less than V_B , the current speed is lowered to 4xspeed in step 412. In step 414, it is confirmed that the current speed of the spindle motor is 4xspeed.

Thus, the rotating speed of the spindle motor is lowered by 2xspeed if the supply voltage continues to drop.

In step 415, it is determined whether the supply voltage V_{DD} is greater than a fourth reference voltage V_D . If the supply voltage V_{DD} is greater than the fourth reference voltage V_D , the procedure goes back to the step 404. On the other hand, if the supply voltage V_{DD} is not greater than the fourth reference voltage V_D , the speed of the spindle motor is maintained at 2xspeed in step 416.

However, in alternative of the present embodiment, various modifications can be made to the present embodiment. For example, the rotating speed of the spindle motor may be lowered by 1xspeed rather than 2xspeed when the supply voltage drops. Also, if the supply voltage V_{DD} is not greater than the fourth reference voltage V_D , the speed of the spindle

motor may be maintained at 1xspeed in step 416 or the system may be halted.

Thus, it is noted that the aspects of the embodiment described above are illustrative and that the scope of the invention should not be limited by the embodiment.

As described above, according to the method for adjusting the speed of a CD-ROM drive depending on the variation of a system according to the present invention, the error correcting capability of the DSP is maintained by comparing a supply voltage with predetermined reference voltages and adjusting the rotating speed of the spindle motor correspondingly. As a result, the reliability of the system increases.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for adjusting the reproduction speed of a CD-ROM drive assembly having a terminal for receiving a supply voltage, where the reproduction speed is adjusted according to variations of the supply voltage, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) comparing a voltage level representing a voltage generated from the supply voltage with a predetermined reference voltage level representing a stored voltage; and

(b) lowering the rotating speed of a spindle motor of the CD-ROM assembly to a corresponding speed when the voltage level is lower than the predetermined reference voltage level in said step (a).

2. A method for adjusting the reproduction speed of a CD-ROM drive according to variations of a supply voltage as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(c) returning the rotating speed of the spindle motor to an original rotating speed, when the supply voltage is recovered.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of correcting an error determined from data extracted from said CD-ROM and outputting said estimated data if said spindle motor is stopped.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said steps (a) and (b) are repeated and said rotating speed is decreased by a predetermined value on each iteration.

5. A device for adjusting the reproduction speed of a CD-ROM drive assembly having a terminal for receiving a supply voltage, where the reproduction speed is adjusted according to variations of the supply voltage, said device comprising:

a spindle motor for rotating a turntable on which a CD-ROM is placed;

a servo for controlling the speed of said spindle motor;

a digital signal processor for controlling said servo, correcting a predetermined error in data extracted from said CD-ROM, and outputting said corrected data if said servo is locked;

voltage level comparing means for comparing a voltage level representing a voltage generated from the supply voltage with a predetermined reference voltage level representing a stored voltage and outputting an output value based on the voltage level comparison; and

a microcontroller for determining whether said digital signal processor normally controls said servo and said servo is normally operated, and outputting a signal for adjusting the rotating speed of said spindle motor to a corresponding speed on the basis of the output value of said voltage level comparing means.

6. The device according to claim 5, wherein said microcontroller includes means for causing the rotating speed of said spindle motor to decrease by a predetermined value upon determination of the output value from said comparing means.

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7. The method according to claim 4, wherein the predetermined value is equal to one quarter of a maximum speed and where the maximum speed defines a maximum rotating speed of the spindle motor.

8. The device according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined value is equal to one quarter of a maximum speed and where the maximum speed defines a maximum rotating speed of the spindle motor. 5

9. A device for adjusting the reproduction speed of a CD-ROM drive according to variations of a supply voltage, 10 comprising:

- a spindle motor for rotating a turntable on which a CD-ROM is placed;
- a servo for controlling the speed of said spindle motor;
- a digital signal processor for controlling said servo, correcting a predetermined error in data extracted from said CD-ROM, and outputting said corrected data if said servo is locked; 15

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comparing means for comparing a voltage supplied to the CD-ROM drive with a predetermined reference voltage; and

a microcontroller for determining whether said digital signal processor normally controls said servo and said servo is normally operated, and outputting a signal for adjusting the rotating speed of said spindle motor to a corresponding speed on the basis of the output value of said voltage level comparing means, said microcontroller including means for causing the rotating speed of said spindle motor to decrease by a predetermined value upon determination of the output value from said comparing means, wherein the predetermined value is equal to one quarter of a maximum rotating speed of the spindle motor.

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